SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1223 90199 4419

MARIE HARRINGTON

REF
B
H2375a

MARIE HARRINGTON

SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER

San Francisco Public Library

STACKS

REFERENCE BOOK

Not to be taken from the Library

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
San Francisco Public Library

http://www.archive.org/details/marieharrington00harr

P.O. Box 330159 San Francisco, CA 94133

THIS INTERVIEW IS THE PROPERTY

OF

THE TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

NO PORTION OF THIS TRANSCRIPTION MAY BE

QUOTED OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM:

Office of the President
The Telegraph Hill Dwellers
P.O. Box 330159
San Francisco, CA 94133

Founded in 1954 to perpetuate the historic traditions of San Francisco's Telegraph Hill and to represent the community interests of its residents and property owners.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM

HUSBAND (FULL NAME) John Harrington
BORN (DATE) 6/22/23 PLACE San Francisco
MARR. (DATE) 6/2/45 PLACE San Francisco
DIED (DATE) _____ PLACE _____
BUR. (DATE) _____ PLACE _____
HUSBAND'S FATHER (NAME) _____ DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH _____
DATE & PLACE OF DEATH _____ DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE _____
HUSBAND'S MOTHER (NAME) _____ DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH _____
DATE & PLACE OF DEATH _____

WIFE (FULL NAME) Marion (Schnell) Harrington
BORN (DATE) 7/4/24 PLACE San Francisco
DIED (DATE) _____ PLACE _____
BUR. (DATE) _____ PLACE _____
WIFE'S FATHER (NAME) Fred Schnell DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH February 22 Germany
DATE & PLACE OF DEATH San Francisco 1945 DATE & PLACE OF MARRIAGE August 1, 1923 - Sts. Peter + Paul
WIFE'S MOTHER (NAME) Mary De Martini DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH 10/25/1884 - Genova, Italy
DATE & PLACE OF DEATH San Francisco 1960

	SEX M/F	CHILDREN (FULL NAMES) IN ORDER OF BIRTH	WHEN BORN MO/DA/YR.	WHERE BORN TOWN/COUNTY/STATE/COUNTRY	MARRIED DATE & TO WHOM	WHEN DIED MO/DA/YR.
1.		Michael	9/22/50	San Francisco	Barbara Briggs	
2.		Kathleen	12/18/55	San Francisco	Vincent Smith	
3.		Jeffrey	3/28/59	San Francisco		
4.		Kim	10/13/60	San Francisco		
5.						
6.						

HUSBAND'S GRANDPARENTS
*(P) _____
*(M) _____
WIFE'S GRANDPARENTS:
*(P) _____
*(M) _____

*P = PATERNAL *M = MATERNAL

Marie Harrington, October 2000

PROJECT: TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS ORAL HISTORY

TRANSCRIPT DATE: December 9, 1999

TRANSCRIBER: Judith A. Powell

INTERVIEW DATE: May 18, 1999

NARRATOR: Marie Harrington

INTERVIEWER: Audrey Tomaselli

[ ]: [Transcriber's Comments]

Audrey Tomaselli: This is the Telegraph Hill Dwellers Oral History Project. I am interviewing Marie Harrington in her home at 1714 Grant Avenue, where she has lived for most of her 75 years. It is Tuesday, May 18, 1999. May I call you Marie?

Marie Harrington: Certainly.

AUDREY: The other day you told me that your mom's name was Mary DeMartini. I have been reading some history of Telegraph Hill , and I know that the DeMartini family -- I don't know whether they're different DeMartinis or just a lot of branches of the same family....

MARIE: There are a lot of different DeMartinis. Where they came

from, which is a town called Lursica in Genoa [Italy], I think everyone is a DeMartini. Because I've had friends and cousins who have gone back and the tombstones are DeMartini, DeMartini, so DeMartini married DeMartini yet were not related. And there were several that I know personally that married DeMartini to DeMartini and were not related.

AUDREY: When did your mom come to this country?

MARIE: When she was 26 years old.

AUDREY: She was 26, she was born in '84. So that would have been 1910, is that right? Yeah, 1910. So she was not here when the big earthquake happened.

MARIE: No.

AUDREY: Did she come by herself or with her folks?

MARIE: She came with her sister -- well, she actually came with two sisters. One sister was married with children and the other was single, she was sixteen, so my mother was kind of her guardian. They came after the family ... her parents died, and then they [the sisters] came.

AUDREY: So that was pretty brave -- three women and one man, the sister's husband.

MARIE: Yes, but there were others here. Her brothers were all here, four or five brothers were already here in San Francisco, and that's

why they [the sisters] came to San Francisco. But, the men all ... I don't know when they came, you know. My mother stayed in Italy because she took care of her [parents]. She was the eldest in the family and single, and then the younger sister, they lived together. And then I think the other [third] sister who was married with 3 or 4 children said, "I'm not staying here. If you guys are going [to America], I 'm coming with you." And that was why.

AUDREY: So there were relatives here. (MARIE: Yes.) So you had a lot of aunts and uncles?

MARIE: Yeah, there were, I think, ten in the family originally.

AUDREY: All here in San Francisco?

MARIE: They were all in San Francisco. Now they're all gone.

AUDREY: So do you have a lot of cousins?

MARIE: Yeah, well, a lot of them have died. I'm the youngest of all the nieces, because my mother was the last to marry but was the eldest in the family. So living cousins I have six -- first cousins. Of course there is the next generation, but in the first generation there are six left.

AUDREY: So let's see then. Your mom was 39 when she was married, and then you were born a year later. And were there any more children?

MARIE: Just a brother; one more, a son. He passed in 1994.

AUDREY: So he was ...

MARIE: Eighteen months younger than I.

AUDREY: So, you grew up together?

MARIE: We grew up together.

AUDREY: Were you conscious that because you were a girl you were treated differently?

MARIE: In the house, in the home? (AUDREY: Yes.) No, I always said I was, but I wasn't. I used to say my brother was the king, you know. But boys, well, I think in those days ... we had the Salesian Boys' Club and I was very athletic, and my brother was, too. But *he* got to do all these things, but there wasn't anything for the girls! So it was always a big thing *that* way, but otherwise no.

AUDREY: That's interesting. So many of the gentlemen I've talked with have talked about the Salesian Boys' Club, and they said how they were so helpful to boys.

MARIE: It's a wonderful group, and to this day.

AUDREY: But, what was there for girls?

MARIE: The only thing they had for the girls was the Holy Family Sisters. [They] were here teaching catechism seven days a week. They were in that same building. I don't know if you realize that the school is upstairs in that building [the third floor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church]. On the third floor was the Holy Family Sisters, and they taught catechism and things. I didn't need to go because I went to parochial school, but it was a gathering place, so we all gathered there and we all had great times. There were even boys up there. With the Sisters we had basketball games downstairs in the gym on Saturday, and sewing, embroidery. Then in the summertime they had -- in those days it was called a summer school, which I now say is like a craft school -- there were 500 children who went every day. We went every day, and I eventually became one of the instructors. We had arts and crafts, and then we'd have cartoons, and then once a week we had a full length movie in the afternoon where everybody would come. But there were a lot of children in those days around here.

AUDREY: So there was kind of a girls' club, in a way.

MARIE: Yeah, but it was just kind of said in different terms.

AUDREY: There was something for girls, but not ...

MARIE: There was, but there wasn't a structured thing like the boys' club. The boys' club had teams, the CYO, the different league things.

It was more of a structure of a boys' club then, you know, they played baseball, basketball and all those things. So they had more going for them, you know, and the boys' club was great. There were a lot of them that became doctors and attorneys, but their roots were there in the boys' club. And, Mr. Fusco really encouraged them all to go to college.

AUDREY: Who was Mr. Fusco?

MARIE: Mr. Fusco? He was the first director of the boys' club. Angelo Fusco. You see, this Father Trinchieri started it, and then Fusco was the first director.

AUDREY: When do you suppose it started, do you know?

MARIE: The club? I should know, the Church had a Centennial, 100 years, so I don't know. It has to be, I would say, at least 75 years. [Marie later told me that she did some research and found that the Salesian Boys' Club was founded in 1918.] I'm guessing, but when you realize that Joe Alioto was 80-something when he died and he was a member when he was a boy ten years old or so. So that's what I'm going from, because in those days you had to be ten years old to join. And my brother begged Fusco to let him to join. So Fusco -- they were starting up a mothers' club to help, so he said, "If your mother joins the mothers' club, I'll let you join." Mama said, "Yeah." This was school years when we were down at the Church with the Sisters and that vacation school was great. I had friends and I still have friends that I made there, you know, public school children. Because actually in those

days very few went to parochial school, and most people went to Galileo. I didn't go to Galileo, I went to Presentation, but we still have that connection. We met down there, at the Church.

AUDREY: And the Sisters were ...

MARIE: Holy Family Sisters.

AUDREY: And they're not active any more?

MARIE: They're not at the Church any longer, because now they have the Salesian Sisters that belong to the Salesian order.

AUDREY: So now it's a boys' *and* girls' club?

MARIE: But it's not run by the Sisters. The Boys' Club and Girls' Club are run by secular, lay-people. The Girls' Club actually just started maybe five or six years ago. You know, it took a long time for the men to allow these girls there. And the Boys' Club has grown so much. Then we had this Priest, Father Larry Byrn, who was instrumental in building that new gym down there that is the Boys' Club. And then the Girls' Club has the old gym, which is what the boys always had -- the gym with the low ceiling and they have a few rooms. But it's grown; it has a huge membership now.

AUDREY: So what I'm hearing is that, growing up, it was a very important community center for kids and helped...

MARIE: And I think it still is. In the summertime, there are children that come here from all over the city and Marin County and everywhere, because no one else has what we have. We have a Boys' Club, and the dues are $10 a year. I don't know if you realize it, but a lot of other places -- to play in the CYO or any of these things, all over the United States -- each child has to pay so much money to be on the team. While at the [Salesian] Boys' Club, they don't pay anything. When you're on the team, you're on the team, and the Boys' Club pays for it. Of course, that's why you have all these fund raisers, and people help, and then I guess they have a Board of Directors, etc, etc.

AUDREY: Do you think it was started -- well, let me tell you what one of my other narrators said -- that there were a lot of ruffians around, and the Boys' Club was started to help them to get educated and learn how to hold jobs.

MARIE: That's right, yeah, because the immigrants that were here, you know, there was nothing for them. There was no entertainment or nothing to teach them anything. They were coming, they [came] to a new country. That's when this Father Trincheri started the Boys' Club; that way, to get the boys together.

AUDREY: They couldn't speak English?

MARIE: I'm sure that many of them could not speak English, but I'm sure when the Boys' Club started they probably could. I imagine they could. Don Bosco, who was the founder of the Salesian priests, his order is an order for the youth. And when he was a young man in Italy

this is what he did: he got all the boys who were homeless boys, and boys that didn't have any roots, and he would gather them all, and play with them and teach them games, take them to church. They'd play and then they would go and have ball games and he was a very clever person who could be a magician and did all these acrobatics, and so he drew all these people to him and made them ... gave them a reason for doing, for going to work. And I think that, you know, Father Trincheri probably was imitating Don Bosco, which is what they do. The Salesians are dedicated to youth.

AUDREY: So that's why this club is unique in San Francisco; that's why people come here from other parishes and other parts of the area?

MARIE: Yeah, because of the facilities and all. I don't know what the San Francisco Boys Club and those people ... they must have something, but there's so much here for them. They have basketball teams and baseball teams. And then we have the summer camp, they go once a year to the summer camp, and then that's when you realize that a lot of the children don't go to school here. Because we volunteer in the summer camp, my husband and I, and I'll say, "Do you go to Salesian?" "No, I go to Saint Gabriel's." They all come from other places, but they all become friends in the summer. And then in the winter time they're playing against each other in the basketball league or baseball league, so it's a nice. It's nice for the City, too, that they make friends this way.

AUDREY: Just to get back to being raised with a brother and what the differences are/were, you mentioned to me that you used to sit in

Marie and Her Brother, c. 1926
North Beach Playground

Washington Square Park with your mom.

MARIE: Oh, well that was a long time ago. You mean go back to the beginning? Okay, when I was a little girl [laugh] (AUDREY: That's what I want to know about.) Okay, let me tell you what I was thinking of. When we were growing up, North Beach was, I would say, 60% immigrants, there were very few first generation. And everyone spoke Italian, and all the families were large. I can remember when you walked down on a Sunday morning -- we all went to church, and everyone going into Soracco's, to get 10 cents fogatsa [sic, focaccia], and that was our breakfast. I mean, just on Sunday. Where we lived at that time, when I was little, was down on Grant Avenue and Green [1360 Grant]. My uncle owned the property, and there [were] nine flats on Grant Avenue and then on Green Street there was a three flat house, but in between was this big yard. So when you were there playing you could hear everybody chopping their onions and making their gravy, and everybody made wine, everybody made their own wine. So that, in *itself*, was like a family, where everybody was friendly. My father even made wine. Everybody helped each other. It was great, and just little things like that that we always did, I always remember that. And another thing about North Beach, which is my biggest, biggest [regret]: that we no longer have a shopping area. When we were little there were at least 5 drugstores, 4 or 5 pastry stores, but then maybe 5 bakeries where they made French bread, and dress shops. You know, it was like a little village where you could do all your shopping. Well *now*, you can't even buy a spool of thread, which is what I tell everybody; it drives me ... I just think that North Beach is now not a community anymore as far as being able to shop. You have to go

elsewhere, you know -- and there used to be 2 or 3 markets, like Rossi Market was huge in those days, and then there was Buon Gusto market on the corner.

AUDREY: Down on Columbus and Green?

MARIE: Um hmm, and then there was -- what else did we have back then? Ice cream parlors.

AUDREY: Somebody told me about Athens.

MARIE: Athens was great!

AUDREY: Where was that?

MARIE: Athens was where -- what's there now? Where Rose Pistola is now, on Columbus [near Union].

AUDREY: There was another one, Splendid?

MARIE: Splendid's used to be up on Stockton Street -- what's there now? It was next door to Deb's. Deb's Department store -- there's a Chinese food place there, and Splendid's was right next door to that. Right now there's a Chinese restaurant on the corner of Broadway and Stockton and next door to that was Splendid's, and they made candy and everything.

AUDREY: Did you like to go there, too?

MARIE: We liked Athens better. I think because it was closer to us, and Athens was bigger. And, what else?

AUDREY: Well, I'm curious about the buildings that you lived in on Grant, near Green. Was it on the corner of Grant and Green? (MARIE: Yeah.) And how many flats were in the building?

MARIE: I would say -- let me see -- eight at least. You know where the video store is -- that building. And the Panama Canal Ravioli's place was underneath.

AUDREY: Under the apartment building? Panama Canal Ravioli Factory?

MARIE: They just got out, well, maybe ten years ago, but they'd been around. And then, there used to be -- in my day -- there used to be a little dress shop there, too. And then another landmark is Tassano's, Tassano's Dry Goods. I'm sure everybody's told you about Tassano's, where everyone went to buy work clothes. Mrs. Tassano raised three sons; she was a widow, and she raised three sons with the business.

AUDREY: That was her business, she ran it by herself?

MARIE: That was her business, she ran it by herself. Yes, Mrs. Tassano, and she had three sons, and they lived on Lombard. In fact, they still own the property -- I mean one of the sons -- well, they're all dead maybe. But the family still ...I know their grandchildren are there on Lombard between Grant Avenue and Stockton.

AUDREY: Did the sons take over the business when she got older?

MARIE: They did, but she passed away.

AUDREY: What exactly is a dry goods store?

MARIE: A dry goods store is where you buy, like sheets, crocheting material, you know, just things like that. It's not a novelty store like a Woolworth's or something. It had men's work clothes, and it had -- like they had the school uniforms down there later. My mother always went into there. Oh, and they had towels and things, and in those days, you know how they used to put the crochet at the bottom of the towels, and she'd have all the things for that. I guess maybe you'd get it in a crafts store now?

AUDREY: So really it was neighborhood serving business.

MARIE: Oh, yeah!

AUDREY: And then also Figone's Hardware.

MARIE: Oh yeah, Figone's Hardware was there. You know how Figone's Hardware was so old fashioned? Well, that was what Tassano's looked like. And Tassano's was where, there was a butcher shop, I don't know what they call it, it's now a delicatessen on the corner of Union [and Grant, southeast corner].

AUDREY: Prudente's

MARIE: Prudente's, okay. Next door to that was where Tassano's was, and I think North Beach Pizza has it as a something or other now, a storage place. But that's where Tassano's was. [1458 Grant]

[Note: Since this interview, Prudente Delicatessen has vacated the space on the southeast corner of Grant and Green. At this point it is empty.]

MARIE: And Ravazzini's on Stockton Street.

AUDREY: Oh, I haven't heard about that.

MARIE: You haven't heard of that? Oh, Ravazzini's was a men's clothing store and it was on the corner of Broadway and Stockton. What's there now -- there's a bank there. That was Ravazzini's Clothing Store.

AUDREY: And Cavalli's was ...

MARIE: Cavalli's was there, but that's always been there. But then, Ravazzini also had a women's dress store that was where -- oh, what's there now? Oh, a mall; they call it Asia Mall. It's up the same block on Stockton Street. You know where Woolworth's was?

AUDREY: I don't.

MARIE: Woolworth's used to be -- you know that junk store that's on Stockton Street between Broadway and Vallejo -- that was Woolworth's. Next door to there was Terry's, you know, the women's wear. That was where Terry's was, and they sold women's clothes and children's clothes.

AUDREY: And so the Ravazzinis owned that as well? And Terry's was the name of the women's shop?

MARIE: Yes, but it was really part of the Ravazzini family, and they were here for a long, long time.

AUDREY: So, just to get back to where you lived, what was your apartment like? Do you remember it?

MARIE: The flat? They were flats, not apartments. It had -- oh, it's still the same, I'm sure. We had two bedrooms. We lived there when we were real little. It was four rooms, I guess. I don't remember where my brother slept. He must have slept in the dining room. [Marie later remembered that she and her brother slept in the same room.] But there was, you know, a room here and a room here and a long hall and the bathroom here. The kitchen was here and it opened up into a big room that was like a dining room. We didn't have -- in those days you didn't have living rooms, you know, everyone's time was spent in the kitchen. Everyone stayed in the kitchen.

Marie with Her Father and Brother, c. 1929
On the Roof of a Neighbor's Flat, Green Street

AUDREY: You entered on Grant Avenue?

MARIE: Um hmm, but we could also -- see, the thing is that we could also come in that backyard from Green Street. You know, I don't think I ever went up those front steps. I think we always came up Green Street and went up the back stairs.

AUDREY: So if we were on Grant Avenue facing your building, the flats ran this way? [Gesturing east/west.]

MARIE: Yes. And the kitchen was in the back. And then there was a back porch, an open back porch where they had wash trays and a washing machine, (later on when we had washing machines). Then you hung your line. Well, I even hung a lot of clothes in the back *here*. You know, I had four children, and I didn't get a dryer until they were all grown. No you just hung it out; that was part of it. See the lines went across the yard then.

AUDREY: So do you remember before the time your mom got a washing machine? Do you have any idea how old you were when she got a washing machine?

MARIE: Maybe six or seven.

AUDREY: And before that she did it all by hand?

MARIE: They did it all, scrubbing and scrubbing away. That was it, you know. Like we didn't have radios. Other people did, we didn't. My

mother -- it took us a long time to get a radio because she didn't think we needed it.

AUDREY: Well, I remember you told me that when you were little and you wanted to go to a movie...

MARIE: Oh, you want me you tell you about the park, okay.

AUDREY: And the movie.

MARIE: When I was a little girl, we used to go -- my mother's idea was: it's a sunny day, you go out and enjoy the sun. Well, of course, I was the girl who always went with her. And, we used to sit in the plaza, which is Washington Square, and all the ladies would just sit there. So, I spent my youth going and watching the weddings in church. [Sts. Peter and Paul] I'd say, "I'm going to a wedding." So I would go there and watch all the weddings while my mother was there in the park talking. And then my brother would go with my father to the ball games. I went sometimes, too. But then after my brother got to be a ball player my mother would go, too. We'd go to Funston Playground, which is now Moscone's, and watch him play ball, because he was on different teams.

AUDREY: So, your father would take him down there on Saturdays and Sundays?

MARIE: On Sundays, not Saturdays. But he was, in those days, always down at the Boy's Club anyway. But we didn't get to go to the show. I

used to pray that it would rain.

AUDREY: And did you go to the Palace Theater?

MARIE: The Milano. It was the Milano then. It was the Milano before it became the Palace. And my friends, you know when you're older, we always went to the movies every Sunday. I think my husband did that too. I think a lot of -- if their parents were first generation Americans, you know, that's a different culture.

AUDREY: How old were you when your mom let you go to the movies by yourself?

MARIE: We always went to the movies by ourselves. I mean, when you went to the movies you went by yourself [i.e. without parents]. And oh, I don't know, I wasn't that young, I would say 10 or eleven.

AUDREY: With a girlfriend?

MARIE: Yeah, with everybody. In those days everybody went as a group; it wasn't one or two together, it was 5 or 6 together. There was always a group of people, no one was ever paired off or anything. You didn't just go with one girlfriend, you went with 2 or 3 girlfriends, where now, I think, the children are more in two's or something. But you were all friends and we just went. Then when we got older and we

even went with boys all together and we all just went to the movies, we just all went to see the movie.

AUDREY: So, at the age of 10 or 11 your mom felt comfortable with you going with your friends to the movies a few blocks away?

MARIE: Yeah, yeah.

AUDREY: And afterwards did you stop for ice-cream?

MARIE: No, we just came home. The ice-cream we would go -- I don't know when we'd go for ice-cream -- maybe when we were just walking around. You know, when you have nothing to do, a group of us would be, on a day like today if it was a non-school day, we would go for a walk if the Sisters weren't there. And another big thing was, there was DeMartini cookie factory, on Powell Street between Filbert and Greenwich, across the street from the schoolyard. What's there now?

AUDREY: There's a little gallery there.

MARIE: But it was big, that gallery and, you know, a big, big -- I'd say 3 of those little stores were this one big one. And we used to go and buy 5 cent broken cookies. You got this huge bag and we all shared, cause it was so many. That was always a big thing, very good.

AUDREY: Were they relatives of yours?

MARIE: No, no, the relative DeMartini that I had was my uncle that

owned that building that we lived in on Grant Avenue, and he also owned where the Italian-American bakery is. If you look up, you'll see the name, it says, "DeMartini" on it. The one on Union. [The name has since been removed from the building.]

AUDREY: He owned the bakery?

MARIE: He owned the building, he didn't own the bakery. The bakery...there's always been a bakery there. And there used to be 2 bakeries. You know where there's one now on Green Street on this side? Well, across the street there was another one, where the frame store is, that was a bakery too -- French bread.

AUDREY: Down from there is a bakery now.

MARIE: That wasn't there then. That used to be Buon Gusto. The bank and all that there used to be Buon Gusto store, grocery store. Where Stella's is, that was not named Stella then, but that was a bakery there, it was Nebbia. Then there used to be Gallo Pastry on Stockton Street where the North Beach Restaurant is. And of course Victoria was there [Vallejo and Stockton]. I'm not sure, I think there was another one, but I don't know, further down the block from Victoria.

AUDREY: I'm thinking about what women, what kind of work they would do then. They went shopping every day for food, I presume, and there were plenty of markets to get that done. They did their own laundry.

How did they have time to sit in the park and talk?

MARIE: [Laughter.] Well, that was Saturday and Sunday. I can tell you that my mother washed clothes on Monday, ironed on Tuesday and Wednesday I think she must have repaired, you know, mending, and then the other time you just cleaned house. But, on Sundays especially, everybody was out, they were on the plaza. I only was down there really on the weekends. I was not there during the week. When I had my first child, I had a friend who said, "Oh, I guess you go down to the plaza!" And I said, "I wouldn't go sit in the plaza for the...I won't go there." And I never did sit in the plaza [with my children].

AUDREY: Because?

MARIE: Because I'd spent my youth there and it was horrible. If I had friends in town I would go, if I had company. I used to walk down to Market Street and back with the buggy to go out. You know, it didn't harm me, but it was just not what other people did.

AUDREY: So, [in your youth] you had to go with your mom and other kids didn't have to?

MARIE: Right.

AUDREY: Because she was older?

MARIE: I think because she was older and.... Once in a while there would be some other child there, but I think because she was an older

mother and was still living in the mentality of her generation she just didn't....

AUDREY: And also she was not particularly young when she came here, so her whole experience of growing up as a young woman ...

MARIE: Yeah, and the thing is that they were poor farmers, and she probably was always home working hard, because I remember her saying, "I was going to stay there, but how was I going to take care of the farm?" In Italy that's what she -- and of course, all the men left to make their fortunes here. It was hard. I think all of them came here, and all the immigrants had a hard life back then. I don't think any of them had money.

AUDREY: Did any of the women work, the mothers that your mom knew?

MARIE: A few. My mother went to work -- my mother worked, of course, when she came.

AUDREY: What did she do?

MARIE: She worked in a pickle factory. She worked in a cannery, and then she went to work in a pickle factory.

AUDREY: Where was that?

MARIE: Oh, I don't know.

Marie with her Mother and Brother
Photo/Postcard c. 1927
(this is typical of the kind of photo sent to relatives in Italy)

AUDREY: Not here in the City?

MARIE: Oh yeah, in the City. Not in North Beach. And in fact, she became a fore lady. I think that's one of the reasons that my mother could speak English. My mother spoke and read English, where other people of her friends could not because they were home. And I find that even now, when people come from Italy and they stay in their little circle they never learn to speak English. But my mother and her youngest sister both -- and she worked there. And then, when we were growing up, during the Depression, my father was out of work for 2 years, and so she went to work in the pickle factory again.

AUDREY: She went back?

MARIE: Yeah, oh yeah. Unbelievable. They asked her if she could come back, and so she went back to work then. And then that was it.

AUDREY: You were what, just 11, 12 [years old]. So you remember her going to work?

MARIE: Oh, yeah, she smelled to high heaven. She smelled of pickles and vinegar when she came home [laugh]. And that's when I went to the Day Home. It was the Day Home on Powell Street run by the Holy Family Sisters, where On Lok is now. That was a wonderful place. They took children from infants, I guess, maybe they were --they looked so little, maybe toddlers; toddlers and up. And then we would go there, I would go in the morning when she went to work. My brother and I would

go there in the morning, and then sometimes after school. But after my mother stopped working I still went, you know, with the Sisters. I've always been involved, I've always enjoyed being with them.

AUDREY: So it was run by....

MARIE: The same Sisters who ran ... the Holy Family Sisters.

AUDREY: And they called it the Day Home.

MARIE: It was a Day Home.

AUDREY: For children of working mothers?

MARIE: Yeah. And there's a Day Home still in existence on 16th and Dolores that they run. Instead of , which I think is sad, instead of having all these day care...it was a day care center as it was, but it was more structured, I think, than what you see now. So that's where I went for a couple of years.

AUDREY: So you went there in the morning before school.

MARIE: Before school and after school.

AUDREY: And you went to school....?

MARIE: Presentation Grammar School which was up on Pacific and Mason.

AUDREY: So you could walk?

MARIE: We walked from here, and we came home for lunch and went back. We came home everyday for lunch and walked back up there, and never were late.

AUDREY: You had one hour?

MARIE: I don't know, we must have had an hour. I don't know how long we had for lunch, but everybody went home for lunch, no one brought their lunch to school.

AUDREY: I wonder why.

MARIE: I don't know, I guess because all the mothers were home. My mother was home, too, then, and that's a long walk -- Pacific and Mason from Grant Avenue, but everybody did it. And we walked up Broadway Street and there used to be a little candy store that sold little penny candies [laughter], and we'd stop and buy a penny candy. That was across the street from the Jean Parker [school], there was a candy store.

AUDREY: Everybody went in groups.

MARIE: Yeah, everybody would go, you know, whoever was in the neighborhood, or we would meet. You never were alone, you always had somebody, two or three people tagging along.

AUDREY: So the building at [1360] Grant [your first home], is that the same building?

MARIE: It's still the same building. They've put different things -- they've put a gate, you know, like the yard has a gate, and there's another door. They've done things, they've changed it, but it's still the same original building.

AUDREY: And there were several families, all with children.

MARIE: Everybody had children.

AUDREY: Did you go to other neighbor's homes at all?

MARIE: Very seldom. We played outside. I guess I'm still that way. When my children were growing up there was a lady who lived across the street and every day we would be outside. We would come outside around ten in the morning and go back to the house about 12:00 and put the children for naps, but I never went to her home. You know how people say that they go over and have coffee. We never, ever -- cause we would meet outside. And to this day, she lives next door now, but I still don't go in her house, because we always did things outside. Not that we were not welcome to do it, but it's just not in my making, or whatever.

AUDREY: So you'd go out with your children and chat with your neighbors.

MARIE: We used to sit on the corner over here where that -- there used to be a grocery store there on the corner, Mike's grocery store. [Southeast corner of Grant and Greenwich] Mike used to live across the street here, and in fact, he got us a bench, and we used to sit there. [Marie later told me that the bench was on the Greenwich Street side.] And we used to talk, and everybody would come, people would come home from work and they would sit there and talk. It was like a regular meeting place. It was great! And we watched the children, because we didn't let them go out and play by themselves, but they were out.

AUDREY: So they just played on the sidewalk.

MARIE: On the sidewalk. Rode their bikes, they had coasters and stuff. And then when they got older, especially the boys, well mine, all went down to the Boy's Club. And then the girls, once they started going to school then they hung around down at the school, mine did anyway. And then everybody would be sitting out there.

AUDREY: This was the Salesian School?

MARIE: Salesian School, yeah. Everybody in those days, most children went down there, before they all moved out.

AUDREY: Was it first a boys' school?

MARIE: Years ago, years ago it was all boys, (because it did not have

Salesian Sisters then, they had Presentation Sisters), and the girls went up on Mason Street and the boys came down here. Originally the Salesian Brothers taught the boys and then they left, and then the Sisters were going to come, the Salesians Sisters were going to come. But it took them 25, 30 years to come, you know, to have people to manage. I don't know, it must be 40 years, I guess, that the Salesian Sisters are here.

AUDREY: So then by the time your kids were going to school it was coed? [Marie: yes] You said that -- we haven't even gotten to your father yet -- you said that your mother and father, your father was born in Germany and his name was Schnell. So he was an immigrant, your mom was an immigrant -- did your father speak with an accent?

MARIE: No, my father was 10 when he came here, so he was like first generation.

AUDREY: Was he about the same age as your mom?

MARIE: I think 5 or 6 years older.

AUDREY: So had he been married before?

MARIE: No, neither of them had been married.

AUDREY: How did they meet?

MARIE: Well, they met because my father lived with his sister and my

mother lived with her sister. Her younger sister was married by this time. And my father's sister was married and they lived in flats down on Chestnut Street. On the other side of Columbus Avenue. I really don't know which house. I should ask my cousin. And they lived, you know how the flats are on one side and there's a center staircase, and that's how they met. The two married sisters lived across from each other, and so that's how my father met my mother. They just met each other and ended up going out together and then they married.

AUDREY: So it was a late marriage for both of them.

MARIE: Oh, yes, yes. I always tell that to people. Can you imagine, you know, they never had been married before.

AUDREY: It's a nice story.

MARIE: Yeah, and my father spent a lot of his youth in Fresno picking produce, but then he was a baker by trade.

AUDREY: Did he have his own bakery?

MARIE: No, when we were little he worked for Foster's, you know, which used to be a restaurant and they had bakeries, something like I think -- what was that thing called, that made pies....Baker's Square. You know how Baker's Square -- you go in and have food and then they have...that's the kind of a thing it was.

AUDREY: Foster's was a version of that.

MARIE: Yeah, that's what it was, and he was baking there. That's what he was doing when he lost his job.

AUDREY: In the Depression?

MARIE: Yeah, and then he did WPA as a laborer.

AUDREY: When he was a baker, how did he get to work?

MARIE: Streetcar. We never owned a car, an automobile.

AUDREY: And what part of town was it?

MARIE: I don't know, upper Market, maybe.

AUDREY: Where did the streetcar come?

MARIE: The streetcar was like the #30, the 30 Stockton. Then there was an E, and that one went all the way to the Ferry Building, and of course there was Market Street. And in those days -- not here, but on Market Street -- we used to have 2 railroads, we had the Muni [Municipal Railway] and we had the Market Street Railway. The San Francisco, and then the Market Street Railway. The Market Street Railway was owned by a separate company, and then San Francisco bought it over and then it was one. But Market Street used to have 2 rows of tracks going each way, in other words 4 rows on the street. And so the Market Street one was in the middle, and then the other

one was on the side. And so you decided which one you wanted to take. And they were all streetcars.

AUDREY: So then there were a lot of tracks up and down North Beach here where the streets are. There used to be, apparently, a lot of tracks here in North Beach.

MARIE: Just on Stockton Street. There weren't any on these other streets. They were on Stockton Street.

AUDREY: None on Columbus?

MARIE: The E would go down Columbus, I think. The E used to come down Union Street, turn and go, it went down Columbus (or up Columbus) and then it would end up at the Ferry Building. I don't know, because it used to pass the produce market, you know the produce market that used to be where -- what's down there now, Embarcadero Center? That was all a produce market, and so then you went down there, and the end of the line was the Ferry Building. And when you went on picnics, you took the E, and the E was a completely different type. You got on in the middle and the seats were on the side. And that's when you went on a picnic and if you wanted to go across the Bay you took the Ferry Boat. Like if we went to a picnic in Fairfax, say, you took the Ferry Boat to wherever the landing was, and then you took a train into Fairfax.

AUDREY: Okay, so let me get this right. You took the E streetcar ... to go on a picnic ... the E streetcar to the Ferry Building, and then you

took the Ferry to wherever it was, Oakland or Berkeley?

MARIE: No, no, Marin County. I just don't know where it landed, whether it was Sausalito or Tiburon or whatever, and then you took a train to Fairfax, and there used to be a picnic ground there. And that's the only place we ever went. I'm sure other people went elsewhere.

AUDREY: Because that was in *real* country then.

MARIE: Yeah, oh yeah! It was great. Marin Town and Country Club -- you see, you haven't been here that long -- but after a while it became Marin Town and Country Club. And then, the thing is when you came home, there were a lot of hikers, people would go on hikes, young people, and you would come home, and they'd all be singing....

AUDREY: On the train?

MARIE: On the Ferry Boat. You know, when we were little, we'd all go and listen to them.

AUDREY: So there was a train in Marin County? Was that also a streetcar?

MARIE: No, no, it was a regular train, a railroad train. And they're always talking about making it for commuters or something, every once in a while when I read about it, it think, oh, I remember doing that. Because if the tracks are still there, I don't know why they don't, you know, I think it would be a good way of public transportation.

AUDREY: You think the tracks are still there?

MARIE: I don't know. You know, like my husband said, there used to be a train that went underground down on the Embarcadero, and then they tore them up, and now they dug and put them under there [again]. [Laugh] I guess that's progress. But that's how we went on picnics, packing all this food.

AUDREY: And did you go as a family?

MARIE: As a family. Yeah, I only went as a family. When we went with the club, you know, the church, we would go on buses. And we used to go to Alum Rock, the place down on the Peninsula, Alum Rock, and they had this slide that went into the pool. It's in San Jose somewhere, and every once in a while I hear them mention the city or the town of Alum Rock. [Pause.] And then we went to the Fleishhacker's Zoo, and you know they had the big pool. It was an Olympic pool. That's were they had the Olympics one time.

AUDREY: Was it a zoo there , too? And a pool?

MARIE: It was a zoo and there was a pool -- it was a big area -- then there was this big pool, and it was Olympic sized, but the water came from the ocean, and it was always cold out there.

AUDREY: A saltwater pool.

MARIE: Saltwater pool. I don't know what's there now.

AUDREY: There was a Playland down there, too.

MARIE: Yeah, there's still a play yard out there.

AUDREY: No, I mean with rides and....

MARIE: No, that's away from there, that's closer to Cliff House. But the zoo and pool were down further, you know, where the zoo is now. When you went into that area the pool was right there.

AUDREY: So did you go there to go swimming?

MARIE: Once or twice. It was so cold, you know, like when we used to swim -- the North Beach playground pool was an open pool, too -- and every time it was a nice day we got to go. Otherwise it was too cold.

AUDREY: You have to be rugged to go swimming in this City.

MARIE: And I'm not that great of a swimmer, so it wasn't....

AUDREY: You said that, last time we talked, that there was a very, there was a *large* Italian population here, but there were also Irish and German?

MARIE: Before, before that.

AUDREY: Okay, so the Germans and the Irish settled before the Italians, and then they moved.....

MARIE: Well, I think the Germans were here, I don't remember who was here first, it was like the Germans, it was all German. And then the Germans moved out selling or buying homes elsewhere, and then the Irish came, and then the Italians came. But I'm talking about the whole community, you know how different....

AUDREY: And now the Chinese are here.

MARIE: And now the Chinese have come, and now we have young people, because now I think the Asians are buying elsewhere.

AUDREY: But now you think Telegraph Hill is becoming multi-ethnic?

MARIE: I don't think it's ethnic at all, I just think it's yuppies. I just think it's young people, young professional people. You know, I have no objection to them, but I think that....

AUDREY: They're the next group coming in.

MARIE: Yeah, that's what I think. You see, there aren't any children, and I find that whenever people do have children, right away, as soon as they're 2 or 3 years old, they have to go where there's a yard. You know, their thinking is that they've got to have all this space. It's just a different way of thinking, I mean, because the house over here on Greenwich that's a condo; there's always been little children there.

And I think, "Oh, good!" -- but as soon as those children get to be -- I've never even seen them out; they're maybe a year old, the condo is sold, and they go elsewhere.

AUDREY: Do you miss seeing children in the neighborhood?

MARIE: Oh, I do, I do. Like when Garfield School was here, it's still here, but the children are all bussed in. And they used to have their Halloween Parades and they used to walk up and down.

AUDREY: So it was a neighborhood school.

MARIE: It was a neighborhood school. They aren't anymore.

AUDREY: You don't see them walking back and forth.

MARIE: No, to see the Garfield children you go down Filbert Street and you'll see them all getting on a bus. They're all being bussed in; and even Salesian School has a lot of children coming from the East Bay here, because their parents work in the City and it's easier for them. And it's sad not to see children playing on the street. I see them because I do volunteering down at the Boys' Club, and I see children, but you don't see them running around the street. You see more dogs. You know, like my husband knows everybody that lives around here that has a dog, but there aren't -- maybe one or two children , but then the children go as soon as.... I just think it's the generation that had everything, you know, everybody has to have their own bedroom, and everybody has to have two cars, and all these things that they have to

have. So I think that they're losing the community spirit.

AUDREY: It's very interesting. You described going to the movies, going school, going to the candy store, always in groups, and there was, I guess there was a sense of ... that your folks could feel that you were safe....

MARIE: Oh, yes, there was no fear.

AUDREY: About being in the neighborhood. And certainly that's not true today. I mean, I think if I had an 8 year old or a 10 year old, I 'm not sure I'd want her wandering around the neighborhood. In groups, yeah, it would be fine. But as you say, there just aren't enough....

MARIE: There aren't any. Unless they go down to the Boys' Club, or the Girls' Club, then you see a lot of little groups there when they're playing together. But the thing is they probably don't live near each other, they may be people who live across the Bay. You see, like this bussing, it doesn't ... they don't have any friends when they go home.

END OF TAPE ONE

Marie, c. 1930
Green Street (Corner of Grant) Looking Uphill

AUDREY: This is Tape 2, Side A of the interview with Marie Harrington.

MARIE: I hope I'm beginning to make sense out of this.

AUDREY: Absolutely, it's wonderful.

MARIE: Okay. I feel like I'm babbling.

AUDREY: Well, that's the whole point [laugh]. We were talking about children being in groups and just seeing a lot of children around and what that says about the society and the neighborhood, I guess. You weren't lonely, and that's the difference.

MARIE: No, if you didn't have one person you always had another.

AUDREY: And it was much more, from what I hear you say, much more of a street oriented experience. People were on the streets more.

MARIE: Oh yes. Yeah, you met people all the time. You know, in fact, there were shortcuts if you didn't want to meet somebody. [Laugh] Say, some days you're in a hurry and you don't want to meet someone, so you go down through Jasper Alley, so you eliminate that other street. Because sometimes you meet people and you're in a hurry and you can't go, so that was my secret little way. And I think everybody did that. You go down to Jasper, so then you're eliminating Stockton Street and you're going to get to Green faster.

AUDREY: Of course it was impolite not to stay and chat.

MARIE: Yeah, and the thing is that everybody -- and I think North Beach is still that way. I don't think there's any other area where people, everyone says, "Hello." Whether you know them or not, everybody smiles. Where when you go to the other neighborhoods, everybody is a stranger, and everybody is locked into their house and they don't go out. And I feel that way about suburbia. I think that the children in suburbia don't know their neighbors. I have a daughter who lives in Santa Rosa, and she can't wait to come back. She's waiting; her son has 3 more years of school and then she says, "I'm coming back."

AUDREY: Moving back to San Francisco.

MARIE: Hopefully in North Beach, but she'll never be able to afford it, but that's alright. Maybe I'll be dead, and then she can live here.

AUDREY: Was there any feeling in your mother's family that she didn't marry an Italian? Was that a problem?

MARIE: No, because her younger sister married a German too. And I told you my father had 2 sisters that married Italians. So I don't think there was any prejudice or anything. I never saw any of it, and I'm sure that they...they may have been so happy that she was getting married. [Laughter.] There was never any of it. It was a very close family, and they were fine as far as I know.

AUDREY: I saw a photo -- I have a history of Sts. Peter and Paul Church -- and I saw a photo of a Mr. and Mrs. DeMartini who were the first parishioners, or among the first parishioners. It was in 1884, apparently, when the church was started. Would they have been distant relatives?

MARIE: No, no.

AUDREY: But maybe from the same town.

MARIE: Oh sure, oh definitely. There's no question about that.

AUDREY: Could you spell the name of that town?

MARIE: Oh my goodness. L-u-r-s-i-c-a ... I'll try and find somebody who knows how to spell it for you. But that's where all the DeMartinis came from.

AUDREY: You said you've been living in this house since you were 10? So you moved here from [the other] Grant Avenue flat?

MARIE: No, there was an interval of a couple of years. We went from Grant Avenue to the Richmond district. My mother bought a home out there and then, of course, the Depression came, and she lost it and I guess she couldn't make the payments. It was the best thing that ever happened to us, because we came back here.

AUDREY: Do you remember being in the Richmond?

MARIE: Oh, yeah, it was a lovely house. Different life. You know it was only first grade, second grade, and it was okay. I didn't know any better, but I remember -- I don't remember any friend. I think the only person I remember from there was an older -- she probably was a teenager who lived on the block, and I used to hang around with her, but I don't remember having any friends there.

AUDREY: And you missed your friends in North Beach.

MARIE: Yeah, well, see I was only a first grader, so it wasn't really that I had ... in those days, you were really under your mother's thumb. You're doing things with them all the time.

AUDREY: So then when you moved back here, you moved back to the same apartment?

MARIE: Well, no. Same building, different flat, and then we came here.

AUDREY: They bought this house?

MARIE: They bought this then.

AUDREY: So that was after the Depression, and things got better?

MARIE: Well, my mother was working then. She must have bought it before that, because my father worked at the WPA when we lived here.

That's the only way I can remember.

AUDREY: How did they manage to finance it?

MARIE: Because I had a rich uncle. Her brother helped her. He lent her the money, which he had done for that one, too [the previous house in the Richmond]. But she was so worried that she wasn't going to pay him, she was very nervous about not having ... so she probably broke even. You know, sold it [the Richmond house] and broke even, and then paid him back.

AUDREY: He was the one who owned the bakery building?

MARIE: He owned that and many others.

AUDREY: So he helped her with this one and the one in the Richmond?

MARIE: Yes, he lent her the money, and then she repaid him, but that's how she was able to do it [buy a home].

AUDREY: Did they build the house, or was it already built?

MARIE: No, it was already here. She paid $6,000 for it, but it was 2 flats, and we changed it. We made it....

AUDREY: After you were married.

MARIE: No, no, after my mother died. After I inherited half of it, then I

bought my brother out.

AUDREY: Okay, so you each inherited one of the flats?

MARIE: No, we inherited the property, the whole property, but he was already living in San Jose. You know, he was married and lived in San Jose. But I had no intention of ever selling this house, I was going to stay here, I knew it. I knew exactly what I was going to do, and so then I bought him out.

AUDREY: So you've basically, except for a year or two have been on Grant Avenue.

MARIE: Oh yeah, every place I went has got this address. I mean, I had this address in grammar school, high school and since I've been married, you know.

AUDREY: You've always lived here.

MARIE: Well before, when my mother was living, we lived upstairs, you know, and she lived on the bottom flat, and we lived upstairs. And then when she died....

AUDREY: When you moved here as a family, did you have tenants?

MARIE: Yes. Connie Polani lived here. She had a little girl who was born here. And then, well when she left my mother came downstairs, but I was married at that time. But, you see, we lived with my mother,

because during the War everybody lived with their mother; we got married so we just lived with my mother. Then we moved upstairs. I've been in the same bed, the same bedroom because I just kept staying here. You see, this used to be 2 rooms; the living room and then the bedroom -- that bedroom; my bedroom's upstairs.

AUDREY: There's not many people who could say they've been at the same address for as long as you have.

MARIE: There are a few of them, a few, there are a few that you hear about, but I wouldn't go anywhere else.

AUDREY: One of the fascinating things that I've been learning about is the wine making that went on every Fall, and you mentioned that happened even when you were on Grant Avenue [in the original flat]. Where did the wine making go on? There was a factory in the basement, the Ravioli Factory ... ?

MARIE: Oh no, it [the wine making] was in the yard. You see, everyone had these big, big tubs, you know, they're huge. Have you ever been to a wine tasting at wineries? You know those big vats they have? But ours were wood, and they would put them up. And then the man would come with the crusher and then they would put the grapes through the crusher and put them in this big vat.

AUDREY: In the yard?

MARIE: In the yard! In that yard there were at least 2 of them, you

know. And then they would crush them, and then they would let them ferment and everything. And then after a while they would press them with these big things that they'd go like this [she gestures] and press them. And the story is that I fell into one once, because then -- when they're pressing it there's a big barrel here and the water comes out of the spigot, you know, out of a pipe. And then from there the wine comes out, and then from there they bring them and put them into the wine barrels. It's a big thing.

AUDREY: And this was all outdoors?

MARIE: Yeah.

AUDREY: Did they cover it?

MARIE: Yeah, they covered it, yeah. Oh, I hated it. And then when we moved *here*, we made it here downstairs. And everything smells of that --oh, and my thought was always, "Oh, that smells!" "But you like drinking it," you'd say, you know.

AUDREY: I was wondering, how do you get the big thing into the basement, those big vats.

MARIE: Because they come in slats. They're put together and then once it's up, it stays up. But in the yard, they would just take it apart and put in their basement, because everyone in that yard had a basement, you know a little basement all along the yard. I'd love to go in there sometimes and snoop.

AUDREY: So it was behind the Ravioli Factory, then, the basements that were smaller.

MARIE: No the Ravioli Factory was *lower.* See, here's Grant Avenue, but then there's a hill, so the basement would be up here in the back. It would be like above, actually. If you were to move that piece of cement over it would be above it, and that's what it was.

AUDREY: So all the tenants got together and it was a community thing?

MARIE: No, everybody made their own, everybody just helped. It wasn't that the wine belonged to everybody there. Each person made their own, each person bought their own grapes. It's just that everyone helped in the work, you know, neighbor type things. The kids loved it, and whenever a truck would pass by they'd be getting the grapes, you know.

AUDREY: So how did you fall into the vat?

MARIE: Oh, they tell me that. I don't remember. I was a little girl then. I was playing and all of a sudden I fell into the little one. So whenever I go to those wine places I go, "Oh, my God!" You know, it's like reliving my youth when I smell that odor and that fermenting.

AUDREY: That wasn't pleasant for you, that odor?

MARIE: Not for me. Do you like that odor?

AUDREY: Well, when I've heard other people talking about it -- some of the old-timers -- and one guy said, "Oh, it was so wonderful in the Fall, all of North Beach smelled of it!"

MARIE: Oh yeah, I think it's wonderful because of the atmosphere and the whole thing of what's going on, but as far its fermenting like that, it isn't a pleasant odor, to me. It may be to them, but the atmosphere of seeing the truck going to places and "Oh, they're going to make wine!" That was great.

AUDREY: And people getting together.

MARIE: Yeah, it was a community thing, you know. And everybody would help. It was great.

AUDREY: What did you do with your wine making stuff downstairs?

MARIE: It's just there, just sitting there. Barrels and -- well, it'll never be used again.

END OF INTERVIEW

Marie and John Harrington
Telegraph Hill, October 2000

Interviewer's Note:

In a conversation which took place shortly after the interview, Marie told me that the building on the Southeast corner of Grant and Greenwich where Mike's Grocery Store was located (which she mentions on page 27) was once known as the Telegraph Hill Hotel. It was rebuilt after the earthquake and fire of 1906. Some years ago, a neighbor who has since died but was then in her nineties, told Marie that she remembers going to the back door and watching the cooks, as the ground floor was a saloon and restaurant.

The present occupant of that space is Robert Sexton, artist. On the wall just inside the front door of his shop is a framed photograph of the doorway when it was a saloon. A trip to the basement under Mr. Sexton's shop reveals a space that looks like it was once used to make and store wine and even, perhaps, was a speakeasy. The original redwood saloon doors are leaning against the back wall of this basement.

HARRINGTON ORAL HISTORY, COPY #2

After you have read this history, please return it to:

Audrey Tomaselli
6 Gerke Alley
San Francisco CA 94133
415-391-1792